



The Uniting Church in Australia
SHEPPARTON UNITING CHURCH

Sunday Worship Order Of Service
16TH OF MAY 2021

Introit: 738 (TiS) 'My Jesus'.

Call to Worship:

We come together from our separate lives, each of us bringing our concerns, our preoccupations, our hopes, and our dreams.

It is now time to let go of the pressures of life and silently say to yourself: 'Here I am'.

God of the past who has fathered and mothered us

We believe in your presence.

God of the future who is always ahead of us

We trust your presence.

God of the present here in our midst

We celebrate your presence.

Let us worship God.

Acknowledgement:

Hymn: 100 (TiS) 'All creatures of our God and King'.

Prayer of thanksgiving and confession:

O God our Father, we thank you for the times when we see you in all your beauty, when we know you as we have never known you before, and dazzled by the brightness of the Holy which stands before us – often in the centre of struggling and darkness.

Thanks be to you, O Christ.

Thank you for the people who dare to bear witness to experiences of God which invite new faith, to encounters with divine life which brings energy and inspiration when faith trembles.

Thanks be to you, O Christ.

You are our truth and you are our hope.

O God, there are times when we yearn to be transported from the everyday experience of our lives, our faith runs low and we turn away in cynicism and lack of hope. We do not wait to see you ascend to the glory of the Father. Forgive us, O God.

Lift our hearts and minds with the wonder of your grace.

Then, O God, there are moments when we do see your beauty written large in the lives of those around us, but we fail to point to them or doubting what we see. Forgive us, O God.

Lift our hearts and minds with the wonder of your grace.

Or perhaps we have met you on the mountain top of life, but we miss your call to us to carry that glowing divine life down the mountain and onto the plains of existence as a gift of hope and promise for the world. Forgive us, O God.

Lift our hearts and minds with the wonder of your grace.

Come to us now, Christ our Saviour.

Declaration of forgiveness:

Whether our souls soar into the heights or walk the earthly places of life, we are never far from the love of God. We are forgiven this day!

Thanks be to God.

Doxology: 768 (TiS) 'Praise God, from whom all blessings flow'.

Young church: 'Church in Mission'

Readings: Micah 6: 6-8, Acts 1: 1-11, Acts 2: 43-47

Hymn: 599 (TiS) 'Take my life, and let it be'. (*second tune*)

Message: Rev Tony Davies

Hymn: 690 (TiS) 'Beauty for brokenness'.

Notices:

Joys & Concerns:

Offering:

Prayers of the People:

Loving God, there are many places on the earth where life is nasty, brutish and short, places where the possibility of another day of life is at best an uncertain proposition.

This is not the world you want. For all who face the real prospect of a life shortened by war or famine, poverty or violence, we pray.

There are many who experience life not as the God-given miracle that it is but as a grey, relentless grind where one hard, featureless day follows another. For all who suffer from the illness of depression and those who experience hopelessness, we pray.

We pray that the life that you gave and the abundant life that you promised may be the life that all the world experiences.

Amen.

Hymn: 470 (TiS) 'Rejoice in God's saints.'

Blessing:

668 (TiS) 'We are marching in the light of God'.